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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 10, 2009

Adam Hughes
Director of Federal Fiscal Policy
OMB Watch
1742 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Hughes:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Improving Transparency and Accessibility of Federal Contracting Databases." The hearing will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to assess current problems with existing federal databases that contain information relating to government contracting and to examine ways to improve the accessibility and transparency of the systems. The hearing will also provide an opportunity to discuss the vision and goals of the Integrated Acquisition Environment and the federal government's plans to streamline, improve, and integrate the existing database systems.

Your testimony should address the experience of OMB Watch as a user of federal acquisition systems, including the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS), the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). We would also like you to discuss the role played by OMB Watch in assessing the reliability and transparency of these systems and in developing solutions and alternatives. Your testimony should also include any concerns OMB Watch may have relating to the Integrated Acquisition Environment.

The Subcommittee requests that you summarize your testimony in 5 minutes, although a longer written statement may be submitted for the official record. This will allow adequate time for you to engage in questions and answers with members of the Subcommittee. Subcommittee rules require that your testimony be submitted by 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Please send an electronic copy of your written statement and a brief one page biography to Subcommittee Clerk, Kelsey Stroud, at Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

We look forward to your participation in this hearing. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or Molly Wilkinson with Senator Bennett's Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-3141 with any questions.

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Sincerely,



Senator Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Senator Robert Bennett
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight